

August 7, 1996

Steve McCormick
Regional Director, Vice President
The Nature Conservancy
201 Mission Street, 4th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105

RE: Category III Funding Approval for the Acquisition of the Valensin Ranch of the
Cosumnes River Project

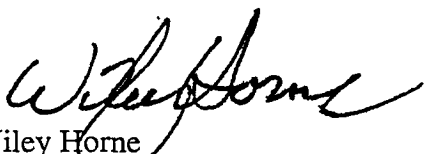
Dear Mr. McCormick:

We are pleased to report that the Category III Steering Committee (Committee) has approved funding for an element of the Cosumnes River Project (Project). Specifically, the Committee has approved \$1.5 million for the acquisition of the Valensin Ranch as described in The Nature Conservancy's proposal dated May 29, 1996.

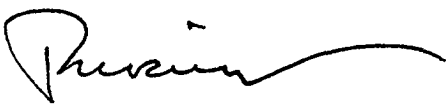
The Committee's funding decision was based on the biological benefits the Project expects to achieve and the broad support and commitment this Project has received from both public and private entities to protect and restore the Cosumnes River ecosystem. The Committee shares this view and supports acquisition of the Valensin Ranch to expand the Cosumnes River Preserve.

We appreciate your involvement in a project that promises to provide significant benefits to Bay-Delta environmental resources. Should you have any questions regarding the Category III effort in general, please contact Steve Hirsch of Metropolitan's staff at (916) 650-2622. For questions regarding contractual issues, please contact Walt Hoye of Metropolitan's staff at (213) 217-6384.

Very truly yours,



Wiley Horne
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Co-Chair, Category III Steering Committee



Patrick Wright
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Co-Chair, Category III Steering Committee

cc see attached list

CALFED Agencies

California

The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

Federal

Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

cc:

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Conservation Programs
The Nature Conservancy
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Cosumnes River Project
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Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations
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Mendocino, CA 95460

Gary Bobker*
The Bay Institute
625 Grand Avenue, Suite 250
San Rafael, CA 94901

Jim Crenshaw*
California Sportsfishing Alliance
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Woodland, CA 95776

Greg Gartrell*
Contra Costa Water District
1331 Concord Avenue
Concord, CA 94524

Rich Golb*
Northern California Water Association
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East Bay Municipal Utility District
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Sacramento, CA 95814

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Natural Heritage Institute
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Bay-Delta Advisory Council
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* Member, Category III Steering Committee